

a foreground extractor coupled to the input which compares location of like pixel information in each image to determine which pixel information is foreground pixel information and which pixel information is background pixel information;

a DCT block classifier coupled to the foreground extractor which determines which DCT blocks of at least one of the images contain a threshold amount of foreground information; and

an encoder coupled to the DCT block classifier which encodes the DCT blocks having the threshold amount of foreground information with a first level of quantization and which encodes the DCT blocks having less than the threshold amount of foreground information as background information at a second lower quantization level.

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of all the pending claims are respectfully submitted in light of the above amendment and the following remarks.

Applicants have amended claim 1 at line 15 to clarify that the encoder coupled to the DCT block classifier encodes the DCT blocks having less than the threshold amount of foreground information as background information at a second lower quantization level;